को रोकने के लिए चौकसी बढ़ाना शामिल है।

Reduction in Baggage Import-Duty

*214. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further reduced the baggage import duty from 150 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(b) if so, what specific factors contributed to the further reduction in import duty following the earlier reduction from 255 per cent to 150 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of goods imported as passengers' baggage, the Tax Reforms Committee chaired by Prof. Raja J. Chelliah had recommended a rate of duty of 100 per cent ad valorem to be paid in foreign currency subject to some other conditions. It was observed that a number of passengers were already paying duty with foreign exchange. Moreover, making payment of duty in foreign exchange a mandatory requirement could have been interpreted as lack of adequate confidence in Indian currency. It was accordingly decided to prescribe the general effective rate of duty on passengers' baggage at 100% ad valorem without the stipulation of payment of duty in foreign currency. This step is also in accordance with the Government policy to curb smuggling of consumer articles, by reducing the large margin of profit available, with a high baggage duty rate.

Export of cotton by Maharashtra Government

*215. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cotton bales for export for which the Government of Maharashtra has requested permission;

(b) what is the quota for export of cotton bales allotted to the Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) what is the reason for not accepting the request of Maharashtra Government fully.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra from time to time has been requesting for release of export quota of cotton, ranging from 6 lakh bales to 10 lakh bales during the current cotton season. As against this, the Government has so far allocated a quota of 6.20 lakh bales of cotton for export to Maharashtra Federation. Keeping in view the total release of 17.855 lakh bales, and also considering the demands from other State Cooperative Marketing Federations, the Maharashtra Federation has been given a quota of 6.20 lakh bales which is the highest ever so far.

Committee's recommendation on bungling by Nationalised banks

*216. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pertaining to bungling of money in the nationalised banks are constantly on the increase during the past few years,

(b) if so, what is the number of cases of bungling noticed during the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and the amount likely to be involved per year in such cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh had submitted its recommendations in this regard to Government; and

(d) if so, when these recommendations were submitted and what action has been taken by Government so far on the basis of these recommendations?